

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: FRANKLIN/JEFFERSON EXHIBIT

FOLLOWING IS ENGLISH TEXT OF LOCALLY ORIGINATED RELEASE  
FOR PRESS KIT. POLISH TRANSLATION WILL BE SENT  
SEPARATELY TO RPO/VIENNA.

1. TITLE: POLAND AND THE GENESIS OF THE AMERICAN  
REPUBLIC.

2. CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE POLISH HEROES KAZIMIERZ  
PULASKI AND TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO TO THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION ARE WIDELY RECOGNIZED AND VALUED. PULASKI,  
FOUNDER OF THE FAMOUS PULASKI LEGION, WAS MORTALLY  
WOUNDED AT THE BATTLE OF SAVANNAH, THE FIRST FOREIGNER  
OF HIS RANK AND DISTINCTION TO DIE FOR THE AMERICAN  
CAUSE. KOSCIUSZKO, REMEMBERED AS THE "FATHER  
OF THE AMERICAN ARTILLERY", WAS ALSO A SKILLED MI-  
LITARY ENGINEER WHOSE FORTIFICATIONS AT SARATOGA  
AND WEST POINT HAD CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON  
AMERICAN SUCESS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

3. THE ROOTS OF POLISH IDENTITY WITH THE YOUNG  
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AMERICAN NATION EXTEND FARTHER BACK THAN THE

HEROISM OF KOSCIUSZKO AND PULASKI. MASS EMIGRATION OF POLES TO AMERICA IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES NEVER APPROACHED THE DIMENSIONS OF THE ENGLISH OR OTHER NORTHERN EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES. THIS IS TO BE EXPLAINED BY THE GREATER DISTANCE SEPARATING POLAND FROM THE NEW WORLD AND THE FACT THAT THE COUNTRY WAS NOT A SEAFARING POWER. HOWEVER, THE MODEST NUMBER OF POLISH SETTLERS HAD A DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN COLONIES.

4. ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THE FIRST POLE TO REACH AMERICA WAS JAN OF KOLN IN THE YEAR 1476, 16 YEARS BEFORE COLUMBUS' HISTORIC JOURNEY. IN SERVICE THE DANISH KING, HE ALLEGEDLY SAILED ALONG THE COAST OF NORTH AMERICA BUT PERISHED ON THE RETURN TRIP. HIS ADVENTURE WILL PRESUMABLY NEVER BE VERIFIED. THE FIRST CONFIRMED ARRIVAL OF POLES IN THE NEW WORLD WAS IN 1608, WHEN A HANDFUL OF CRAFTSMEN ARRIVED AT JAMESTOWN, THE FIRST PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA, WHICH HAD BEEN FOUNDED JUST ONE YEAR EARLIER. CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH, THE COLONY'S LEADER, PRAISED THE TALENT AND INDUSTRY OF THE POLISH SETTLERS, WHOSE PRODUCTS WERE EXPORTED TO ENGLAND AND GREATLY STRENGTHENED JAMESTOWN'S ECONOMY.

5. AS THE REMAINING COLONIES WERE ESTABLISHED ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST, POLES OFTEN OCCUPIED IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL LIFE. CAPTAIN MARC KRYGIER WAS THE MAYOR OF NEW AMSTERDAM (LATER NEW YORK) DURING THE 17TH CENTURY. ALEXANDER KAROL KURCJUSZ WAS FOUNDER OF THE SAME CITY'S FIRST HIGHER SCHOOL. JOHN RUTKOWSKI AND CASIMIR BUTKIEWICZ WERE AMONG NEW AMSTERDAM'S MOST DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS. WOJCIECH ADAMKIEWICZ WAS A CRAFTSMAN RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MANY HOMES IN THAT SAME AREA DURING THE 17TH CENTURY. A MEMBER OF A PROMINENT COLONIAL FAMILY, JAN ANTONI SADOWSKI, UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS A FAMOUS FRONTIERSMAN WHO EXPLORED WILDERNESS AREAS IN WHAT IS NOW OHIO AND KENTUCKY AND OPENED TRADE LINKS WITH INDIAN TRIBES. HE ESTABLISHED THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENT AT WHAT IS NOW THE OHIO INDUSTRIAL CENTER OF SANDUSKY.

6. DURING THE PRE-REVOLUTIONARY ERA, POLAND ITSELF MAINTAINED A LIMITED TRADE RELATIONSHIP

WITH THE AMERICAN COLONIES. TOBACCO FROM VIRGINIA  
WAS IMPORTED BY POLAND. POLISH POTASH, CORN, AND  
WHEAT OCCASIONALLY WERE EXPORTED TO THE NEW WORLD.

7. THE OUTBREAK OF THE AMERICAN STRUGGLE FOR  
INDEPENDENCE AROUSED SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST IN  
POLAND, INCLUDING THAT OF THE POLISH KING, STA-  
NISLAW PONIATOWSKI. A PROMINENT AIDE IN THE  
POLISH COURT AT THAT TIME WAS AN ENGLISHMAN CHARLES  
LEE, WHO LATER WENT TO SERVE THE AMERICAN  
CAUSE. CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN LEE AND THE POLISH  
MONARCH GAVE CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF OFFICIAL POLISH  
SYMPATHY FOR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE, DESPITE THE  
ABSENCE OF FORMAL SUPPORT TO THE COLONISTS. IN  
AN INDIRECT WAY, HOWEVER, POLAND'S INTERNAL DE-  
VELOPMENTS INFLUENCED THE SUCCESSFUL AMERICAN  
STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. ABSORBED IN THE COMPLEX  
MANEUVERING FOR PRIMACY AFTER THE FIRST PARTITION  
OF POLAND. IN 1772, THE RUSSIAN AND PRUSSIAN  
DYNASTIES WERE PROBABLY LESS INTERESTED IN  
ASSISTING THEIR FELLOW SOVEREIGN IN GREAT BRITAIN  
AND HIS SUPPRESSION OF COLONIAL REBELLION IN THE  
NEW WORLD.

8. KOSCIUSZKO AND PULASKI WERE ONLY TWO AMONG  
MANY POLES WHO ACTUALLY FOUGHT ON THE AMERICAN  
SIDE. HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS SUGGEST BETWEEN 100  
AND 150. IN AN ARMY OF 400,000, THIS WAS NOT A  
LARGE REPRESENTATION, BUT THEIR IMPACT FAR EXCEEDED  
THE MODEST NUMBER. HISTORIANS ALSO BELIEVE THAT  
MANY POLISH IMMIGRANTS, WHOSE FAMILY NAMES HAD  
BEEN CHANGED, SERVED IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY OF  
GEORGE WASHINGTON. IN ADDITION, POLISH SOLDIERS AND  
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OFFICERS WERE IN THE RANKS OF FRENCH ARMY UNITS  
DISPATCHED TO ASSIST THE AMERICAN EFFORT. AMONG  
THE MOST FAMOUS POLES IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
WERE MICHAEL KOWACZ (KILLED AT CHARLESTON IN 1779),  
JAN ZIELINSKI, AND FRYDERYK PASCHKE, WHO LATER  
WAS A FOUNDER OF THE CELEBRATED VETERANS ORGANIZA-  
TION, THE SOCIETY OF CINCINNATUS. ANOTHER FAMOUS  
POLISH OFFICER IN THE PULASKI LEGION, KAROL LITOMSKI,  
RETURNED TO POLAND WITH KOSCIUSZKO AND THEN CAME  
BACK TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1831.

9. PERHAPS THE POLE OF THAT PERIOD WITH THE  
GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT  
A SOLDIER BUT A BUSINESSMAN, PIOTR STADnicki. AS-  
OCIATED WITH FINANCIAL INTERESTS IN HOLLAND, STADNI-

CKI WAS DESCRIBED BY THOMAS JEFFERSON AS "OUR MAIN BANKER IN EUROPE." HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN SECURING LOANS FROM EUROPEAN BANKS TO SUPPORT THE FLEDGING AMERICAN REPUBLIC. ANOTHER BANKER OF POLISH ORIGIN, HAYM SALOMON, ALSO SUPPLIED LOANS TO THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT UNITED STATES DURING THE DIFFICULT YEARS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

10 THE GREAT WAVE OF POLISH EMIGRATION, OF COURSE, DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL THE 19TH CENTURY. BUT THE TALENTS, COURAGE, AND DEDICATION OF POLES ALREADY HAD BEEN AMPLY DEMONSTRATED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN NATION. THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION EVOKED, IN PARTICULAR, STRONG SYMPATHY AND RESPONSE AMONG POLES IN AMERICA AND IN POLAND ITSELF. AS PULASKI TOLD BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN PARIS, "WHEREVER ON THE GLOBE MEN ARE FIGHTING FOR LIBERTY, IT IS AS IF IT WERE OUR OWN AFFAIR." END ARTICLE.

11. REQUEST AGENCY IPS OR IOR/SKRZYPEK VERIFY POLISH NAMES AND FACTS CITED ABOVE.  
DAVIES

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